

# What's Going On?

## Inside this issue:

Health and Safety Expo	2
Monthly Sales Tax Receipts	2
Project HOLD	3
Shared Radios	3
Parks Open Space Master Plan	4
City Sidewalk Projects	4
Northgate Plan Update	5

## Municipal Court/Fire Administration/BVSWMA Building Nears Completion

The project to build a new city facility to house Municipal Court, Fire Department administrative personnel, and the Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency is almost finished. This building will be approximately 32,000 square feet and provide much needed additional space to the municipal court staff.

The facility is two stories; however, the upper level will not finished out at this time. This upper level will be finished out when growth and demands for space make expansion to the upper level necessary.

The final cost estimate for the design and construction of this facility is \$3.2 million.

The City Council approved the design contract with Hidell and Associates in February 2001 and the construction contract with



Jacody Construction in May 2002.

Municipal Court Staff will begin moving in the new facility on July 3rd (completing the move of the weekend) and be open for normal business on the Monday, July 7th. Other City staff will move into the new building later in the month.



Once Fire Administration has moved into this new building, the Community Development Department will move into the building next to City Hall, which currently houses Fire Administration.

## Local Governments Holds Cooperative Vendor Training

The first cooperative vendor workshop held in conjunction with the City of Bryan and Brazos County was a success. Over 75 people attended the event on Monday, June 23, 2003, held at the Brazos Center. The Chamber of Commerce and the Brazos Valley Small Business Development Center co-sponsored the workshop. This joint effort was planned during the Bush School Capstone Study research and as a result this vendor training was published as part of their recom-

mendations. The event was free for all participants and included lunch with vendors from Bryan, College Station, Caldwell, Brenham, and Houston. At the workshop, presenters discussed the similarities and differences between the County and the Cities. The participants were shown how to register on-line at one location for all three agencies and were provided a bank of computers for them to register on site. Each agency showed how to access their respective documents via the website. Some local vendors are now

better equipped to do business with City of College Station. They are registered for the commodities and/or services they provide and know how to download bids, tabulations, and plan holder lists. Workshops of this nature will be provided to vendors on a regular basis.

## JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPO

The annual Health & Safety Expo, which has previously been held by the City of College Station for its employees only, was combined with the City of Bryan and Brazos County. The entities decided to combine their efforts this year because the amount of participation from employee's and vendors caused the Expo to outgrow the facilities used by College Station and Bryan. This effort also assisted the vendors by giving them one day to reach employees and their families from all three entities. This year's Expo was held at the Brazos Center from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2003.

The purpose of the Health & Safety Expo is to promote awareness to employees and their families regarding health and safety. Employees and their family members were



able to take a health risk analysis, have their blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol and vision tested, have their posture analyzed as well as several other testing services. Approximately 67 vendors participated including the American Red Cross, Blinn College of Nursing, College Station Medical Center and Nolan

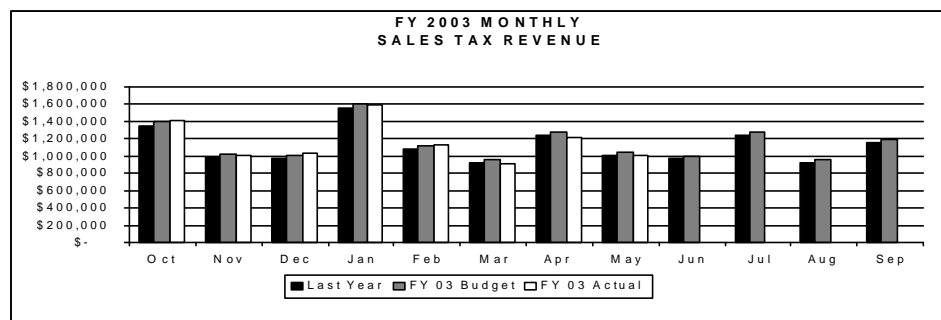


D. Shipman, MD & Associates. Brazos County had 95 employees, City of Bryan had 94 employees and the City of College Station had 225 employees attend throughout the day.

## Monthly Sales Tax Receipts

The City collected **1,014,418.79** for the month of May, **0.75%** above the same month last year. The May receipts are for sales that occurred in April. Sales tax collections for FY 03 YTD are **\$9,128,406.24** or **2.17%** above FY 02 collections.

Sales tax receipts are lower than the same month last year. Sales tax receipts have increased by 3.5% when comparing the last 12 months to the previous 12 months. This is positive given the overall statewide decline in sales tax revenues. Sales tax projections for next year have been lowered to 2% growth due to the uncertainty in



the local economy. This uncertainty is primarily due to the state budget crisis and the impact this may have on the level of funding for higher education in the next 2 years.

Over the last 8 years sales tax growth has averaged 6% per year. In FY 03 sales tax is projected to grow by less than 3%. These projections will be closely reviewed given the statewide decline in sales tax revenues.

## Council Approves Historic Online Library Database

The College Station City Council approved the use of the Historic Online Library Database or Project HOLD. The goal of Project HOLD is to preserve College Station history through digitally scanning historic material into the City's Laser fiche records archival system for the purpose of offering a searchable online library for the public. The HOLD system will allow College Station historic documents to be preserved and accessed by researcher around the world. The Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) has spent a great deal of time studying the benefits of the HOLD system and remain involved in the process of the preserving historic documents.

### **Potential Positives of Project HOLD:**

- The Laser fiche software is already in use by the City of College Station to archive records.
- When use of Laser fiche is paired with scanning procedures outlined by Texas Local Government Records Act and the Texas Administration Code, it provides an archival storage system that is protected from unauthorized changes and loss of documents.
- Both the City of Bryan and Brazos County also use Laser fiche so the possibility of creating linked historic online libraries in the future exists.
- The digitally scanned material will be accessible immediately on the City intranet and within one year be available to the public on the internet.
- The historic materials that HPC proposes collecting include photos, letters, newspaper clippings, family histories, reports, stories, programs, etc.
- The researcher will be able to search HOLD for documents pertaining to their area of interest, i.e., football, campus homes, & George Bush intersection.
- Researchers will be able to print copies of their search results.
- The public has the option of loaning or donating items to be scanned into HOLD.

Once documents are scanned and indexed in the HOLD system, the HPC will relinquish pertinent donations, either to the African-American National Heritage Society, for use in the African-American Museum, or to the Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History, in order to not duplicate public services that are already in existence.

## City to Share Radio System with College Station Independent School District

The City has agreed to allow the College Station Independent School District (CSISD) to utilize the City's 800MHz radio system and paging system. During the June 12, 2003 City Council meeting, the Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding to allow CSISD to access the City's 800mhz radio and paging system.

Once CSISD has purchased the necessary equipment, each campus will be able to communicate with the other via the radio. This is of particular importance in the event

of an emergency when phone lines are often jammed, making communication via the telephone difficult. The system will also allow the district personnel to communicate with City staff in the event of an emergency. CSISD personnel will be able to communicate with College Station Police and Fire Departments via radio.

CSISD will purchase the compatible portable radio units, pager, batteries, chargers, and any other necessary items. CSISD will also be responsible for the maintenance and

replacement of each of these pieces of equipment. CSISD plans to outfit each of the district's campuses with one radio and one pager and one radio and one pager to district administrative personnel. The city will program all radio units and provide training on the use of the radios and pagers.

## The Recreation, Park, and Open Space Master Plan is Updated

At the June 12th City Council meeting, the Council approved a revised version of the Recreation, Park, and Open Space Master Plan. The revised plan updates facilities information concerning inventory, needs assessment, and revised priorities.

The Council adopted the original master plan in 1993, which included a provision that the plan be reviewed and/or revised every 3 to 5 year. The latest revision is in keeping with that provision.

The revision process began in early 2002 with City staff and a subcommittee of the

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board examining each section of the existing master plan. Each section was reviewed and updated to include current information and reflect changes in the advisory board goals.

In the area of needs assessment, the plan was revised to an 8.92 acres (of both neighborhood and community parks) per 1,000 residents; up from 7.82 acres per 1,000 in 1999. These figures do not include Lick Creek Park or Veterans Park. The revision also prioritized needs in the following order:

1. Softball program development.
2. Soccer program development.
3. Indoor recreation facility development.
4. Trails acquisition and/or development.
5. Natural area acquisition and/or management.
6. Neighborhood park acquisition and/or development.
7. Community park acquisition and/or development.

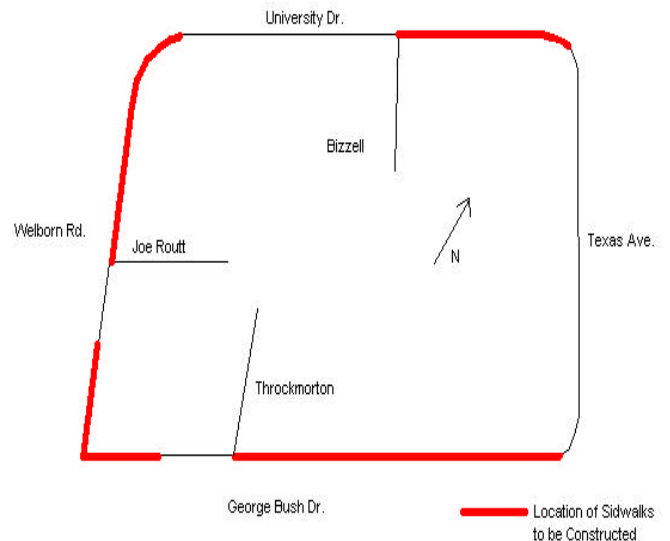
## Texas A&M Sidewalks

Construction of the a sidewalk to surround the Texas A&M campus is currently underway. The sidewalk being constructed will extend from George Bush to Wellborn Road and run along, Wellborn Road to University, and from University to Texas Avenue. This portion in addition to the existing sidewalk on Texas Ave. will completely encompass the main campus of Texas A&M.

This project is a three-way partnership involving Texas A&M, the City of College Station, and the Texas Department of Transportation.

Each entity will fund the project is equal portion of 1/3 of the total cost which is estimated at \$600,000 (each entity contributing \$200,000). The City of College Station portion is fund through the 1995 GO Bond Authorization. Texas Department of Transportation is taking responsibility for managing this project. Construction of this sidewalk began June 2, 2003 and is slated for completion on August 15, 2003.

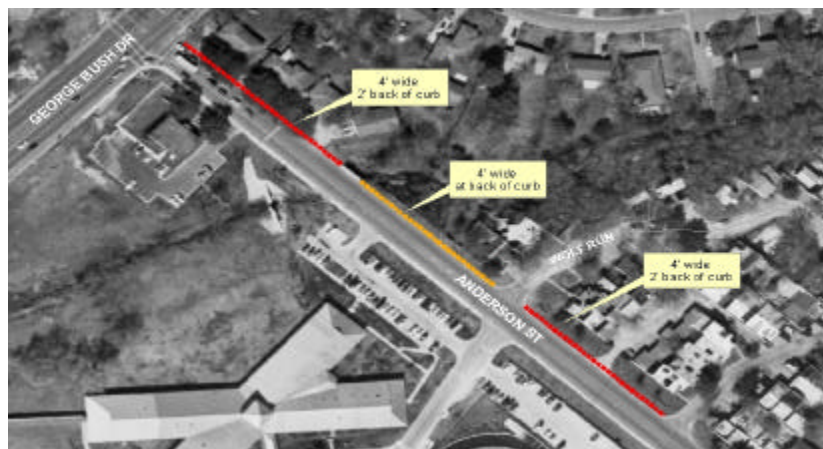
Texas A&M and the City of College Station entered into an inter-local agreement for this project.



## Anderson Street Sidewalk Project Set to Begin Soon

At the June 26th City Council meeting, the Council approved a construction contract with Dudley Construct to install a sidewalk on the east side of Anderson. This project will build a 4 foot wide sidewalk along Anderson from George Bush to Southwest Parkway.

This project is the culmination of several months of efforts to formulate a sidewalk retro-fit that was acceptable to the residents in the area. Staff believes that the a sidewalk in this area was necessary to meet the demands of pedestrian traffic in the area. The total cost estimate for this project is \$200,480. These funds are the remaining portion of the sidewalk from the 1995 GO Bond Authorization.



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Exploring the Past, Embracing the Future

### *Shining Moments*

On Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the 130<sup>th</sup> basic police officer academy graduated from the Texas Engineering Extension Service Academy at Texas A&M University. The Academy is a 16-week course designed to give cadets a basic education in law enforcement and allows them to be licensed by the State of Texas as a Peace Officer.

The College Station Police Department had three cadets graduate among the 30 graduates of the academy. The following awards and acknowledgements were received by the three newest College Station Police Officers:

**Tom Reitmeyer:** Highest Academic Score with a 99.9 average, Honor Cadet, 100% firearms score.

**Frank Vacante II:** Second highest Academic Score with a 98.65 average, 100% firearms score.

**William Allen:** Class President, 96.33 average.

## Northgate Redevelopment Plan Underway

The Economic Development Department, in partnership with Texas A&M University, gathered input from various stakeholders and city boards and have produced a proposed Northgate Redevelopment Implementation Plan. The revised plan includes strategies and tactics to overcome development barriers in order to accomplish redevelopment in the Northgate area.

The Plan's stated goal is "to reinvent Northgate as a preferred mixed-use destination in the College Station-Bryan region".



This goal is different from the original redevelopment plan adopted by Council in 1996. The plan focused primarily on land use planning, zoning, design guidelines, and public infrastructure improvements. The pro-

posed Implementation Plan is market-based and provides tactics to overcome redevelopment barriers and strategies to facilitate development in Northgate over the next ten years.